



HR0781

LRB095 14017 GRL 39851 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Howard E. Brown of Decatur, who passed away on October 9, 2007; and

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WHEREAS, Howard E. Brown was born in Springfield on June 22, 1922; he was the son of Zona Sharp Brown and Lorenza Dow Brown; and

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WHEREAS, Howard E. Brown began his education at Illinois Wesleyan University, attending the college from 1941 to 1942; he received his bachelor's degree in education from Illinois State University and received his Masters Degree in Education in 1952 from Colorado State University in Greeley, Colorado; he received his Specialist in Educational Administration from Eastern Illinois University in 1971 and completed further graduate studies at Columbia University in New York and the University of Illinois at Champaign; in 1987, Howard received an Honorary Doctorate Degree from Eastern Illinois University; and

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WHEREAS, Howard E. Brown proudly served his country in the United States Army during the Second World War, where he fought in France, Holland, Belgium, and Germany; he served in the 104th Infantry Division, Service Company 414th Regiment; he

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1 achieved the rank of Master Sergeant and earned the Combat  
2 Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star, and three Campaign Oak Leaf  
3 Clusters; and

4 WHEREAS, Howard E. Brown served as a professional educator  
5 for 43 years; he began his teaching career at Blue Mound High  
6 School in Blue Mound, where he taught world history, industrial  
7 arts, and coached basketball, baseball, and track; he became  
8 Principal of Blue Mound High School and then went on to become  
9 the Superintendent of Blue Mound Schools; he later served as  
10 Macon County Superintendent of Schools and Regional  
11 Superintendent of Macon/Piatt Region; he also served as adjunct  
12 professor at Millikin University and Richland Community  
13 College; he became President of Richland Community College in  
14 1985, retiring from this position in 1989; and

15 WHEREAS, After his retirement, Howard E. Brown served on  
16 the Richland Community College Board of Trustees and was  
17 President of the Foundation for a year; during his retirement,  
18 he became a member of the Golden K Kiwanis and was a founding  
19 member of the ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out) Club; and

20 WHEREAS, Howard E. Brown was a member of many community,  
21 civic, professional, and fraternal organizations; he was a  
22 50-year member of the Rotary Club of Decatur and was elected  
23 Illinois President of Rotary in 1956; in 1968, he became

1 President of the Area 4 Superintendents Association; he was  
2 President of the Decatur Area Arts Council from 1969 to 1970;  
3 he became President of the Macon County Mental Health  
4 Association in 1970; he was appointed by the State  
5 Superintendent of Education as a member of the Teacher  
6 Certification Board from 1970 to 1974; in 1975, Howard was  
7 elected President of the Regional Office of Superintendents; he  
8 served on the Area Junior College Steering Committee in 1976;  
9 during the 1970's, he directed and wrote a statewide study on  
10 declining enrollments in Illinois public schools at the request  
11 of State Superintendent of Education, Dr. Joseph Cronin; he was  
12 also appointed by Governor James Thompson to a statewide  
13 committee to establish a Master Teacher Program for the State  
14 of Illinois; in 1976, he was a member of the Macon County  
15 Planning Committee for the bicentennial celebration; in 1980,  
16 he served on the search committee to select a new Dean for the  
17 Department of Education at Eastern Illinois University; during  
18 the 1980's, he served on the Boards of the Decatur Chamber of  
19 Commerce, the United Way, the YMCA, the Salvation Army,  
20 Visiting Nurses, and Baby Talk; in 1982, he was Chairman of the  
21 High Risk Infant Screening Committee; and

22 WHEREAS, Howard E. Brown was a Thirty Second Degree Mason,  
23 an Ansar Shriner, and a member of the Decatur Shrine Club; he  
24 was a member of both the VFW and American Legion; he was a past  
25 member of the Macon County Historical Society and was a

1 lifetime member of Phi Delta Kappa; and

2 WHEREAS, Howard E. Brown was a lifelong Methodist; his  
3 first church was the United Methodist in Springfield; in 1940,  
4 he was elected First District President of the Methodist Church  
5 League; in 1942, he served as a student pastor of the Hudson  
6 Methodist Church in Hudson; he was a member of the First United  
7 Methodist Church of Blue Mound and then the First United  
8 Methodist Church in Decatur; in 1967, he became chairman of the  
9 Billy Graham Golden Prairie Crusade for Christ in Decatur; he  
10 served on the First Church Foundation Board and Finance  
11 Committee; he was also a Methodist Lay Speaker and soloist for  
12 many church occasions; and

13 WHEREAS, Howard E. Brown was the recipient of many honors  
14 during his lifetime; he received the VFW Voice of Democracy  
15 Service Awards in 1968 and 1969 and from 1978 to 1980; in 1971,  
16 he received the Distinguished Service Award from the Macon  
17 County Council for Exceptional Children and received an  
18 honorary life membership from the National Congress of Parents  
19 and Teachers; he also received a Certificate of Appreciation  
20 from Richland College and the Freedom's Foundation Schoolman's  
21 Award in 1971; he was in Who's Who in Education in the Midwest  
22 in 1971; he was a nominee for State Superintendent of Education  
23 for the State of Illinois in 1980 and 1984; he received the  
24 Outstanding Contributor to Alternative Education Award from

1 the Alternative Education Association in 1984; in 1996, he  
2 received the Certificate of Merit from the Illinois Community  
3 College Trustees Association; in 2004, he was honored by the  
4 Richland Community College Foundation Board at their first  
5 Legacy Society meeting; and

6 WHEREAS, Howard E. Brown was well known for his singing  
7 voice, singing at many community and civic events; one of his  
8 greatest honors was the opportunity to sing at events for  
9 President Ronald Reagan, President Gerald Ford, and President  
10 Richard Nixon, as well as his performance at an event for  
11 Vice-President Nelson Rockefeller; he will always be  
12 remembered by his family and friends for his moving rendition  
13 of "God Bless America"; and

14 WHEREAS, Howard E. Brown was preceded in death by his  
15 brothers, Paul T. Brown and Clarence Dow Brown; and his sister,  
16 Fannie Mae Brown Stone; and

17 WHEREAS, Howard E. Brown is survived by his wife of 63  
18 years, Helen Bundy Brown; his children, Bill W. (Linda) Brown,  
19 Becky (Ware) Flora, and Sally (Steve) Schepper; his  
20 grandchildren, Ware Flora, John Flora, Beth Denny, Jenny Brown,  
21 Sarah Schepper, and PFC Philip Schepper; and his 4  
22 great-grandchildren; and

1           WHEREAS, On October 13, 2007, Howard E. Brown will be  
2           inducted into the Illinois State University Hall of Fame in  
3           recognition of his many accomplishments; therefore, be it

4           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
5           NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
6           mourn, along with his family and friends, the passing of Howard  
7           E. Brown; and be it further

8           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
9           presented to the family of Howard E. Brown as an expression of  
10          our sympathy.